



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

February 28, 2013

Rep. Stephen Dargan, Co-Chairman  
Sen. Joan Hartley, Co-Chairman  
Public Safety and Security Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

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**SB 929 AN ACT CONCERNING CONSOLIDATION FUNCTIONS AND  
OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES AND  
REGULATING SPECIAL EFFECTS DISPLAYS**

***The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
supports this bill.***

This proposed bill would return statutory responsibility for the regulation of explosives, fireworks and model rocketry to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. The agency is currently responsible for the functions pursuant to a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Construction Services. Essentially, the bill would codify in statute responsibilities that the agency is already carrying out.

The bill would also provide for the regulation of displays of special effects produced by pyrotechnics or flame producing devices.

This bill provides a mechanism for the department to regulate the use of special effects created by either pyrotechnics or flame producing devices such as a propane burner. Currently there is a void with respect to the regulation of flame effects before an audience. Further, this bill will allow for the licensing of technicians specifically for the operation of these types of special effects.

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The use of these types of special effects is becoming more common as an enhanced stage effect in the entertainment industry. As a result of the Station Night Club fire in Rhode Island just over eight years ago, which claimed the lives of one hundred people, the actual use of pyrotechnic material has declined. In place of this, flame effects primarily using propane and liquid alcohol have been introduced.

This proposal would permit the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to develop regulations to provide minimum requirements to the manufacturers and operators for the safe operation of pyrotechnic and flame effects. It would also allow the agency to license operators and provide a mechanism for requiring permits for such events. Passage of the bill would result in uniform enforcement across the State of Connecticut.

Sincerely,



Reuben F. Bradford  
COMMISSIONER